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Tuesday January 2, 2018

The Study of Virgin Mary

The International Marian Research Institute (IMRI) will help chart the future of Marian studies by evaluating the current state of this theological discipline and identifying the latest trends and areas of neglect.

IMRI will present its findings at its next Marian Forum at the University of Dayton on April 6. Organized around the theme “Mary—Yesterday and Today,” the two-hour forum will be the sixth in a continuing series of free academic gatherings IMRI has been sponsoring online to promote the study of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

“We are producing our Marian Forums in order to present fresh research and to stimulate creative energies in the study of the mother of Jesus Christ,” said the Rev. Johann Roten, S.M., director of research and special projects at IMRI. “Our next forum will contribute to this goal by first taking stock of how Marian theology and spirituality have evolved since the middle of the last century. Then, we will propose areas of research that capitalize on the emerging developments in theology and culture and serve the spiritual needs of Christian peoples around the world.”

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The forum will deliver this information in two presentations. The Rev. Thomas Thompson, S.M., a professor at IMRI, will present a synthesis of Mariology from the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) to the end of the 20th century. Then, drawing from a worldwide survey of current research and devotional practice, Roten will explain how Marian theology and spirituality have settled into their current state and identify the needs and opportunities for further study.

After their presentations, the speakers will field questions from the live, worldwide audience participating both online and in-person. The event will begin at 2:30 p.m. Eastern (U.S.) time and end at 4:30 p.m. Admission is free, but IMRI requires participants to register online by March 23 at the related link.

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